

aphis theory raged, was ascribed, in a provincial paper, the blackening of the potato leaves which accompanies the potato disease, and forms its external symptoms. It is a minute insect, about the size of a small pin-head; the head is small and rounded; the body, consisting of the thorax and abdomen confounded in a single mass, oval or subquadrate, broadest behind, and looking as if the insect wore a cloak. The head, the general colour of the body above, and its apex are light yellow, and there is an orange cloud or some irregular maculæ of that colour posteriorly; the body is very pale beneath, as are the legs and antennæ; and there are six white spots (or fewer), three on each side behind the posterior legs; the head is slightly dusky in front, and the eyes are black. It is furnished beneath with a leaping-fork, of a pellucid white, which is fastened behind, and lies along the belly in a state of repose; but, by projecting it backwards at will, the insect is propelled forwards with a rapid jerk. It usually falls on its back, and takes some time to recover its upright position, which after a struggle it often does by seizing some adjacent object with its legs. It runs rather quickly.—*From the Gardeners' Chronicle for Nov. 18.*

The Liquidamber Tree of the Tenasserim Provinces.

By the Rev. F. MASON.

“Did you ever see in this country the tree which produces the balsam of tolu?” a gentleman once asked the writer. “I never did,” was the reply. “I have one in my compound,” he continued; but unfortunately his compound was two hundred miles distant. Years passed away and I found myself beneath this tree in flower, and soon discovered that it was not *Myrospermum toluiferum*, but *Liquidamber altingia*; and that it produced, not balsam of tolu, but liquid storax.

The tree is indigenous on the coast, and in some sections is quite abundant. A considerable stream in the province of Mergui derives its name from this tree, in consequence of its growing so thick on its banks. It seems to have escaped the notice of Dr. Helfer, for, if I recollect right, it is not once alluded to in any of his reports, nor has it ever been brought to notice by any one; if we except a Catholic priest, a resident of Rangoon, who has introduced it in a little Burmese medical treatise that was lithographed a few years ago by Cól. Burney, who took a lithographic press with him into Burmah.

The Padre seems however to have been ignorant of botany, for he describes it as the tree which produces the balsam of Peru (*Myrospermum peruiferum*), and which belongs to a different natural family. The medicinal properties of their exudations too are materially different. Liquid storax, the production of this tree, is described by Lindley merely as “a stimulating expectorant substance—influencing the mucous membranes, especially that which lines the air-passages.” The writer of the Burmese medical treatise recommends the exude of the tree for the usual purposes to which the balsam of Peru is applied, under the delusion that it is the same substance!

Here is a fine illustration of the fallacies of medicine. It is probable that this substance has been used in all the various cases many

times by the author, and quite as much good done, and as wonderful cures effected, as if he had used the veritable balsam of Peru. And the same glorious effects are still being produced, for the book is in the hands of many natives and is highly valued, but no part more so than this, because it points them to a production of the country, while most of the medicines mentioned are foreign productions.

It seems to me that our liquid storax might be made an article of commerce, but I know not how it sells in the market.

The tree is called by the Burmans *Nan-ta-rouk*.—*From the Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal for June 1848.*

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS FOR OCT. 1848.

Chiswick.—October 1. Densely overcast: clear. 2. Heavy clouds: fine: overcast. 3. Very fine. 4. Rain: cloudy. 5. Cloudy and mild: clear. 6. Very fine. 7. Slight fog: very fine: heavy rain. 8. Very fine: heavy rain. 9. Rain. 10. Cloudy. 11, 12. Clear and fine. 13. Clear: cloudy. 14. Rain. 15, 16. Hazy: rain. 17, 18. Cold rain. 19. Cloudy. 20. Cold rain. 21. Rain. 22. Rain: clear. 23. Overcast: rain. 24. Very clear: overcast: rain. 25. Boisterous, with slight rain. 26. Slight fog: fine: clear. 27. Heavy rain. 28. Heavy showers, with intervals of sunshine. 29. Low clouds: overcast: foggy. 30. Fine: overcast: foggy. 31. Foggy: rain at night.

Mean temperature of the month	49°·27
Mean temperature of Oct. 1847	52 ·14
Mean temperature of Oct. for the last twenty years	50 ·44
Average amount of rain in Oct.	2·56 inches.

Boston.—Oct. 1. Cloudy: rain early A.M. 2. Fine. 3. Fine: rain early A.M. 4. Rain. 5. Cloudy. 6. Fine. 7. Cloudy: rain early A.M. 8, 9. Fine. 10. Cloudy: rain A.M. and P.M. 11, 12. Cloudy. 13. Rain. 14. Cloudy: rain A.M. and P.M. 15. Rain. 16. Rain: rain early A.M. 17. Rain. 18. Snow and sleet. 19. Rain. 20. Fine: rain P.M. 21. Fine. 22. Rain. 23. Fine: rain P.M. 24. Fine. 25. Rain: rain A.M. 26. Fine. 27. Rain: rain A.M. and P.M. 28. Fine: rain P.M. 29. Cloudy. 30. Fine: rain P.M. 31. Foggy

Applegarth Manse, Dumfries-shire.—Oct. 1. Drizzling day. 2. Fair A.M.: slight drizzle P.M. 3. Fine: threatening P.M. 4, 5. Very wet. 6. Fair: strong wind. 7. Slight showers: cleared P.M. 8. Showers A.M.: cleared: shower P.M. 9. Showers. 10. Slight showers. 11. Fair, but dull. 12. Slight showers. 13, 14. Fair and clear. 15. A very slight shower: cleared P.M. 16. A very slight shower. 17. Bright and fair: snow-shower seen at a distance. 18. Frost: aurora borealis. 19. Frost. 20. Frost, but mild. 21. Slight rain. 22. Heavy rain all day. 23. Rain morning and evening. 24. Heavy rain early, morning. 25. Rain early: cleared: fine. 26. Frost: fine: shower P.M. 27. Threatening rain: heavy P.M. 28. Rain: hail: thunder. 29. Frequent showers. 30. Raw frost A.M.: rain P.M. 31. Rain all day.

Mean temperature of the month	46°·5
Mean temperature of Oct. 1847	49 ·5
Mean temperature of Oct. for the last twenty-five years .	46 ·6
Average amount of rain in Oct. for twenty years	3·56 inches.]
Rain in Oct. 1847	5·09 ,,

Sandwick Manse, Orkney.—Oct. 1. Drizzle. 2. Bright: clear: aurora. 3. Damp: clear: aurora. 4. Rain: aurora. 5, 6. Cloudy. 7. Bright: clear: aurora. 8. Fog: clear: aurora. 9. Rain: clear. 10. Showers: clear: showers. 11, 12. Cloudy. 13. Fine: hoar-frost: clear. 14. Cloudy. 15. Clear: cloudy. 16. Showers: hail-showers. 17. Snow-showers: hail-showers. 18. Snow: snow-showers: aurora australis. 19. Snow: clear: aurora. 20. Clear: aurora. 21. Damp: showers: aurora. 22. Drizzle. 23. Showers: clear: aurora. 24. Rain: clear: aurora. 25. Showers: clear: aurora: hoar-frost. 26. Showers: cloudy: hoar-frost. 27. Damp: showers. 28. Rain: clear. 29. Shower: thunder: shower: clear. 30. Shower: thunder: shower: clear. 31. Clear: hoar-frost: clear.